Production of Coins

885. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the production of coins in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already set up a new Mint at NOIDA, U.P. with an estimated capacity of 2000 million pieces of coins per annum. A proposal for modernising the three existing Mints at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad is also under consideration of the Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 131.23 crores. This is expected to increase the annual capacity of the three Mints from 1900 million pieces to 2700 million pieces of coins.

Import of Coins

886. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had spent huge amount on the import of coins; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) During the last three years Government have imported 4000 million pieces of Cupro-Nickel coins (2000 million pieces of Rupee 1, 1500 million pieces of 50 paise and 500 million pieces of 25 paise) from U.K., South Korea and Canada. The face value of these coins is Rs. 287.5 crores and the CIF cost of the imports is Rs. 137.79 crores. In addition, 1250 million pieces of stainless steel coins in the denominations of 10 paise, 25 paise and 50 paise are also being imported from Canada at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.09 crores.

Lead Bank Scheme

887. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main purpose of the Lead Bank Scheme was to have co-ordination and cooperation amongst the financial institutions;

(b) whether the Scheme has achieved that purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The main purpose of Lead Bank Scheme was to assign the responsibility for various aspects relating to banking in a district to one bank to be known as the Lead Bank. This *inter alia*, involves identification of centres for opening of new bank branches, coordination among different banks operating in the district as well as with State authorities. For achieving this objective, Lead Bank convenes meeting of District Consultative Committee (DCC) generally once in a quarter and also of Standing Committee of DCC in between two meetings of